Inter-State Water Dispute

859. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the inter-State water disputes, State-wise;

(b) the time since when these disputes are pending; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to solve these water disputes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) At present, two inter-State water disputes are being adjudicated by the Tribunals, namely:

(i) Cauvery Water disputes involving the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Union Territory of Pondicherry; and

(ii) Ravi-Beas water disputes involving the States of Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir and Delhi.

(b) and (c) In the case of Cauvery, a formal request under Section 3 of Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956 was received from the State of Tamil Nadu in July, 1986 for setting up a Tribunal. The Central Government set up the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) in June, 1990, for adjudicating the dispute. The Tribunal has held 116 sittings upto 24.7.97.

The Ravi-Beas Water Disputes Tribunal was set up in April, 1986 in pursuance of the Rajiv-Longowal Accord. It was not possible to hold the sittings of the Tribunal due to the resignation of one of the Members of the Tribunal in 1989. Recently, another Judge has been appointed as Member.

Funds Allocation to Nehru Yuvak Kendras

860. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the fund allocation to Nehru Yuvak Kendras during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of the utilisation of the allocated funds through the Nehru Yuvak Kendras by the Voluntary Organisations; and

(c) the allocation of funds for the Nehru Yuvak Kendras for 1997-98, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

New National Highways in Kerala

861. SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plans to declare New National Highways in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from Kerala Government for New National Highways; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (d) The proposals forwarded by the State Government of Kerala for declaration of new National Highways could not be acceded to due to resource crunch in the 8th Plan. For the 9th Plan, the Government has invited proposals afresh from all the State Governments and a final view on this could be taken subject to adequate availability of funds and their *inter-se* priority.

[Translation]

UGC Grants

862. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has allocated grants to the fake colleges running only on paper;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of such colleges and the amount provided to them as grants;

(c) the persons responsible for running and alloting grants to such colleges;

(d) whether action has been taken against the officials and other persons found involved therein;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (f) the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Dhaka-Calcutta Bus Service

863. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are keen to launch Dhaka-Calcutta Express bus service; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The detailed modalities have not been finalised.

Setting up of Export Oriented Oil Refineries

864. SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give permission for setting up Export Oriented Oil Refineries;

(b) if so, whether such refineries are likely to be granted deemed export benefits in respect of sales to domestic market *via* international tendering or otherwise;

(c) whether such domestic sales would be exempted from customs duty;

(d) whether provisions of Sec. 80HHC and Minimum Alternate Tax of the Income Tax Act, will be applicable to profits made by such refineries;

(e) whether as a result of the indirect subsidies and exemption as above the proposed EOU refineries would enjoy an undue competitive advantage over domestic refineries; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Education in English Medium

865. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh propose to provide education through English medium to the students belonging to poor and backward classes in the Government schools; and

(b) if so, the view point of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Gas and Oil Exploration

866. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI
DR. ASIM BALA :
SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY :
SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR :
SHRI RUPCHAND PAL :
SHRI ANIL BASU :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that gas and oil is coming out through tubewells in different parts of the Sundarban area of West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to send ONGC expert to examine this;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Purchase of Aircraft

867. SHRI CHURCHILL ALEMAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: